

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Final Office Action alleges that Claims 1-20 are pending in the application. However, Claim 4 was previously cancelled, and Claim 21 was added in the last Amendment. There is no mention of Claim 21.

The allowance of Claims 1-3, 5-15, and 19 is noted with appreciation.

Claims 16-18 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Takahashi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,447,170).

Applicants do not agree with the broad interpretation of Takahashi et al. set forth in "Response to Arguments". However, in order to expedite the allowance of this application, Claim 16 has been amended to characterize both troughs in the manner recited in Claim 21 (now cancelled). Claim 16 and dependent Claims 17, 18, and 20 should now be allowed.

The absence of an action on Claim 21 was called to the attention of the Examiner in a telephone conference on May 15, 2006. The Examiner indicated agreement with Applicants' assertion herein that the Takahashi et al. reference does not disclose a trough of the type recited in Claim 21.

This application is now believed to be clearly in condition for allowance.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge to Deposit Account No. 50-1165 (A-10040) any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 that may be required by this paper and to credit any overpayment to that Account. If any extension of time is required in connection with the filing of this paper and has not been separately requested, such extension is hereby requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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